

Brooklyn College. He resides in Forest Hills, Queens, with his wife Cheryl and daughter Alexis.

At an early age in his adult life, Mr. Simmons sensed his calling as a voice and servant to the youth, and the underprivileged of the New York City community. As a former kindergarten teacher, Mr. Simmons found immeasurable pleasure in aiding our young in developing a firm foundation for education and self-esteem. As a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Mr. Simmons was able to continue his desire to serve as a mentor and role model. As a participant in the fraternity's Adopt-a-School project, sixth-grade boys at P.S. 144 in Harlem were exposed to positive male role models, participation in commencement programs at various colleges and universities as well as tutorial programs. Mr. Simmons has also served and participated in the Melvin C. Patrick Career Day Programs.

For more than two decades, Mr. Simmons has worked in the managed care industry, affording him the opportunity to continue to work with youth organizations, various community-based organizations and being an advocate for the underserved families and individuals of New York. As regional marketing manager for Fidelis Care New York, the largest and a leading state-wide non-profit managed care organization; Mr. Simmons has used his position to work with politicians, faith-based organizations and other associations to serve as a conduit for the provision of health insurance benefits and other human services to many families and individuals in New York. Mr. Simmons has been honored and recognized for his selfless contributions to the New York City community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again recognize Mr. Albert J. Simmons, Jr., for his tireless work with the citizens in need of New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man of substance and the great things for which he stands.

TRIBUTE TO SAM LICKLIDER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the career of Sam Licklider. Sam Licklider has served as the senior vice president of governmental affairs for the Missouri Association of Realtors for 40 years.

Mr. Licklider joined the Missouri Association of Realtors in 1968 after graduating from Westminster College in Fulton, MO. As the organization's head of legislative affairs, Mr. Licklider spends his time fighting for realtor issues at the Missouri capitol. He is widely regarded as being one of the Missouri Association of Realtors' biggest assets.

Sam Licklider and his wife, Jane, currently reside in Jefferson City. They have two children and four grandchildren. I trust that Members of the House will join me in wishing Sam Licklider and his family the best of luck in the days ahead.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE TOOMER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christine Toomer for her contributions to the nursing profession and to the Brooklyn, NY, healthcare community.

Christine Toomer was born September 11, in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1972 she moved with her family to Brooklyn, NY. Christine knew at an early age she wanted to help people, so she enrolled in the Clara Barton High School for Nursing. After high school, Christine attended Borough of Manhattan Community College and later, Long Island University. While attending LIU, Christine found employment as a nurse extern. Eventually, Christine graduated from LIU and passed her nursing board certification exams.

Christine is a dedicated nurse and has spent several years at Interfaith Medical Center always putting her patients first. In the mid-90s, her hard work and dedication was recognized and Christine was promoted to assistant head nurse of the Tuberculosis Unit. Christine continued to demonstrate her dedication to nursing and in 2006 she was honored as Nurse of the Year. In April 2007, she was named Employee of the Month. She also became an active member of the American Nurses Association and the New York State Nurses Association.

Christine is not only a wonderful nurse, but also a committed mother of two sons. She is a devoted daughter and granddaughter who oversees the care of her disabled mother and ailing grandmother.

Christine believes that nursing and teaching others the proper way to monitor their health is her purpose in life. The many contributions she has made to the Brooklyn healthcare community are evident. Her love for nursing continues to make her an asset to the profession.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to once again recognize the impressive achievements that Christine Toomer has made in the healthcare field and the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman of substance and the great things she stands for.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, we know what is possible for our Nation if we choose to move seriously and quickly down the path to energy independence. We know what this choice means.

Energy independence means demanding more efficiency and smarter technology for our cars, homes, businesses and industry. Energy independence means investing in our communities and creating the resources and workforce necessary for expanding markets. It

means developing new technologies that create new jobs through America's economic backbone: our innovation industries.

If we want to make opportunity real for more Americans—if we want to keep our Nation strong even as our new economy continues to change—there is no better way to do it than by investing in a new energy future.

The Energy Independence and Security Act meets our obligations as a nation at every point along the spectrum: promoting renewable energy, growing our economy, creating new jobs, lowering energy prices, and beginning to address global warming.

We are taking on an initiative more ambitious than ever, to be sure, but nothing less will secure our Nation's energy future.

Of course, our energy challenges have never been more urgent—threatening our environment, our economy, and our national security—but we have been dealing with many of these issues for quite a while: As far back as 1925, Henry Ford touted ethanol as the fuel of the future.

Well, more than eight decades later we still have some work to do when it comes to potential solutions like biofuels, especially in my region of the country. There are still no E85 fueling stations in Connecticut, and the first public biodiesel station in the State opened just last week.

We must understand that despite some of the current drawbacks of corn-derived ethanol, biofuels are a critical first step—not so much a panacea or a solution, but a transition into a more sustainable process toward cellulosic ethanol.

But the real question is: How do we respond? How do we in New England respond when access remains limited? And how do we as a Congress respond right now, as families and businesses across America struggle with skyrocketing gas prices and escalating home heating costs. Do we bury our head in the sand or do we aspire to achieve something great. If we give consumers and businesses the opportunity to be it part of a real transformation, our entire Nation will reap the benefits.

It is already happening: Last year, I was very proud to help unveil the first large-scale biodiesel plant in my State, in the town of Bethlehem. Today, the BioPur Company is producing over 400,000 gallons of pure biodiesel annually and plans to double production within a year to meet the growing demand.

Spurring that kind of change is why I came to the Congress, and I believe it is at the core of our mission on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee which I chair.

With this year's House Agriculture Appropriations spending bill we made significant new investment—\$1.2 billion; a 215 percent increase over the president's request—to promote renewable energy, strengthening research and education to make biofuels a priority and moving us further down the path to energy independence.

And we can do that again today by passing the Energy Independence and Security Act, providing a historic commitment to the home-grown biofuels that will fuel our cars and trucks: diversifying our energy crops from coast to coast with a robust increase in the renewable fuels standard; requiring 9 billion gallons of renewable fuels in 2008 and progressively increasing to a 36 billion gallon requirement by 2022; incentives to boost their production and increase the number of flex fuel and hybrid vehicles.